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HO-HUM! ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER ENEMY TO KILL!
Get Frank Miller's DARK KNIGHT™ poster!
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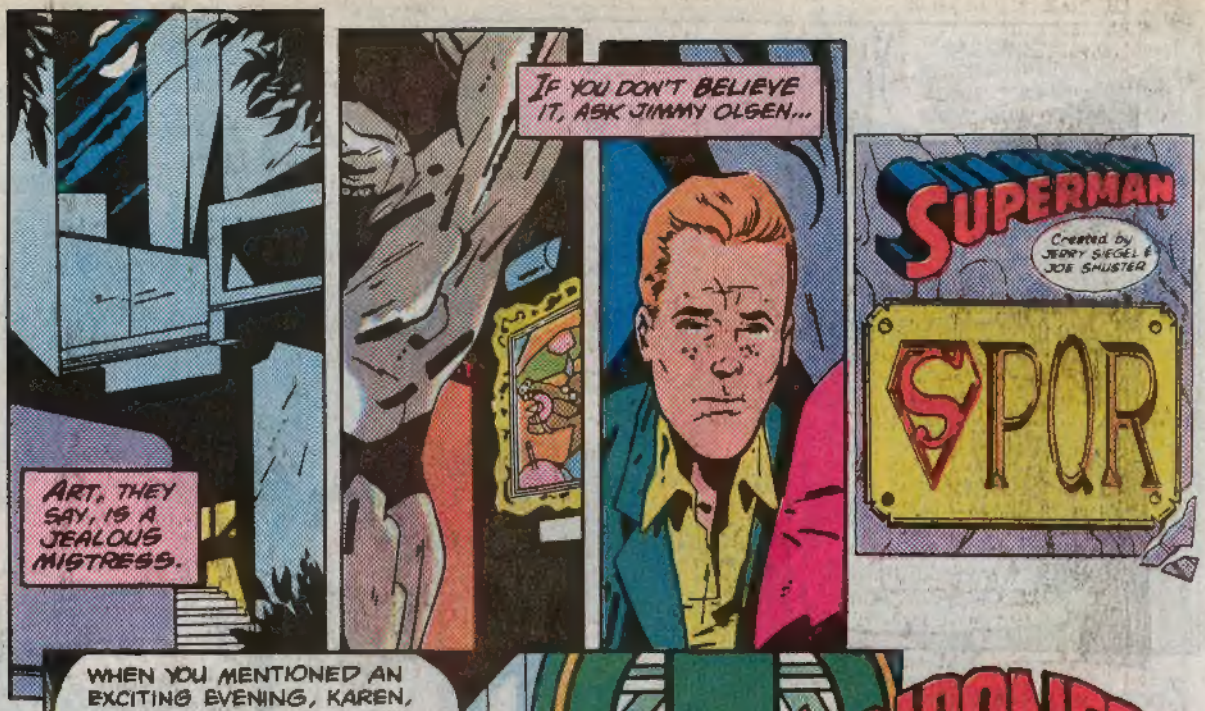
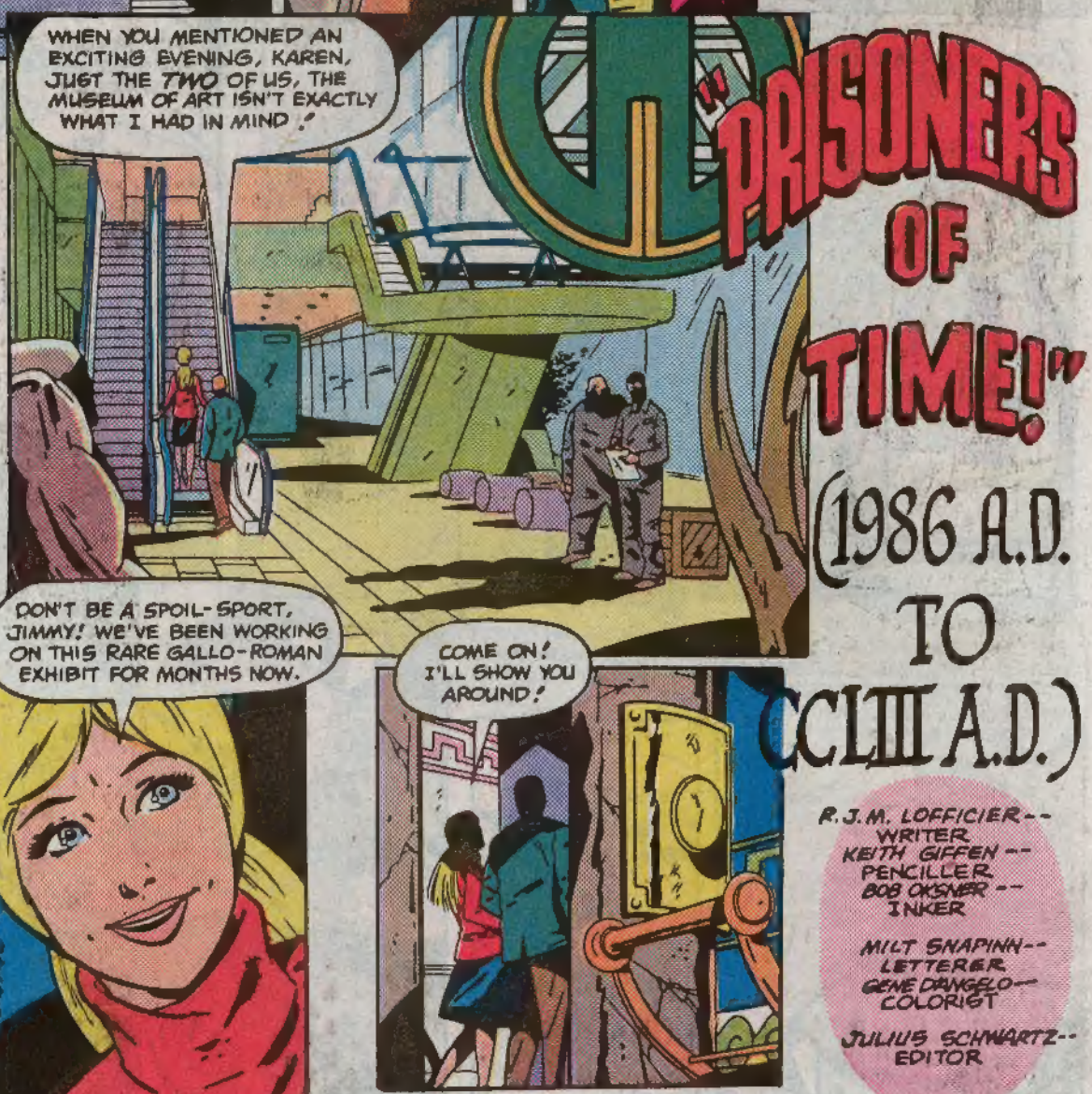

ART, THEY SAY, IS A JEALOUS MISTRESS.
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, ASK JIMMY OLSEN...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
SPQR


WHEN YOU MENTIONED AN EXCITING EVENING, KAREN, JUST THE TWO OF US, THE MUSEUM OF ART ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
DON'T BE A SPOIL-SPORT, JIMMY! WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON THIS RARE GALLO-ROMAN EXHIBIT FOR MONTHS NOW.
COME ON! I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND!

"PRISONERS OF TIME!" (1986 A.D. TO CLIII A.D.)

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KEITH GIFFEN -- PENCILLER
BOB OKSNER -- INKER

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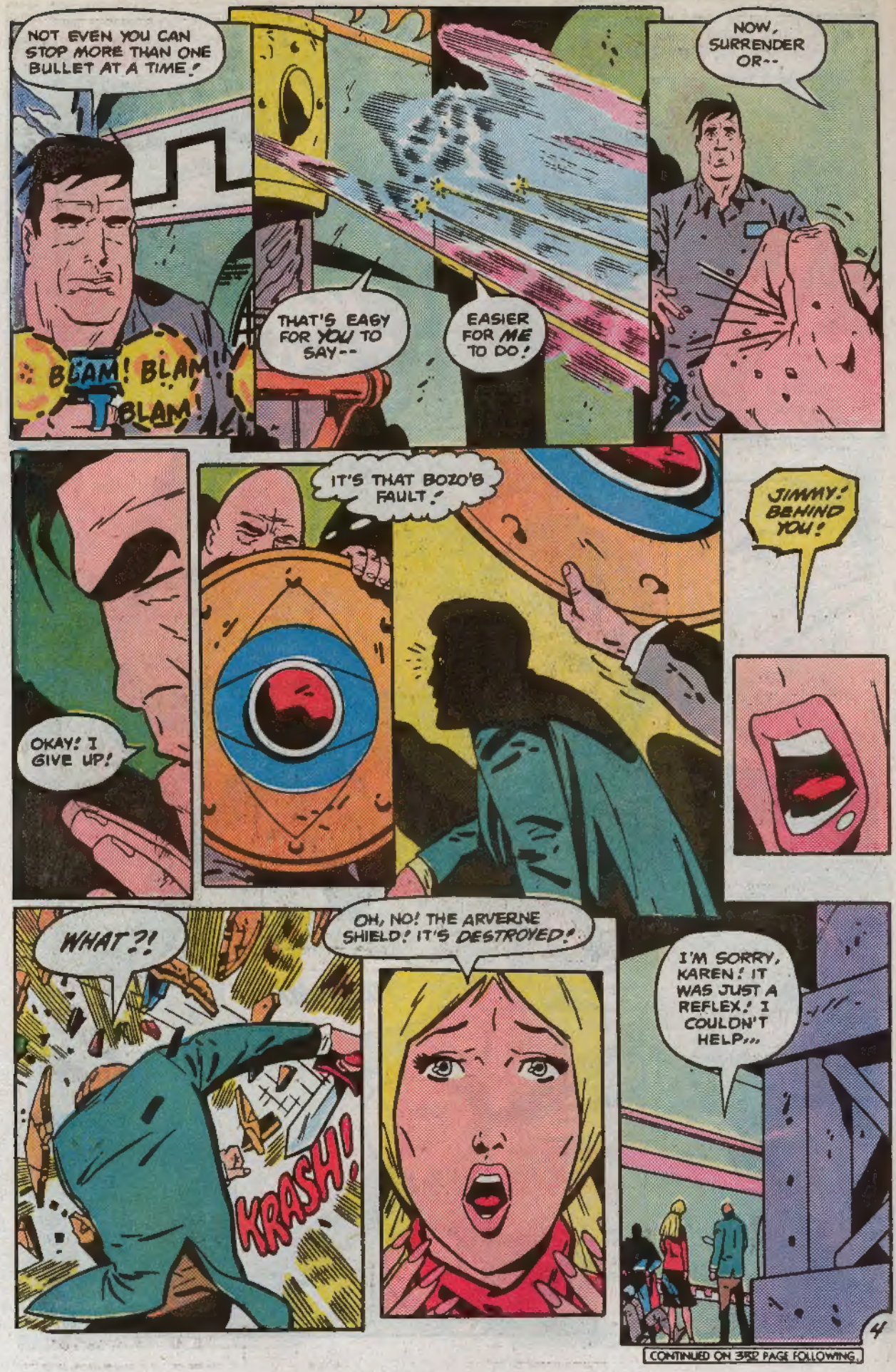
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

THIS IS A "GLADIUS," A GLADIATOR'S SWORD. IT HAS A SHORT BLADE BECAUSE IT WAS USED FOR...
HEY, I ALWAYS DID FANCY MYSELF IN THE ROLE OF SPARTACUS!
WHAT DID KIRK DOUGLAS HAVE THAT I DON'T HAVE...?
OUCH!
WELL, FOR ONE THING, HE KNEW HOW NOT TO CUT HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN SWORD!
DON'T YOU THINK ALL THIS WOULD MAKE A GREAT ARTICLE FOR THE PLANET?
REALLY, KAREN, I DON'T THINK OUR READERS ARE MUCH INTO ANTIQUES.
THESE AREN'T ANTIQUES, JIMMY! IT'S LIFE! HISTORY!
FOR INSTANCE, THIS ARVERNE SHIELD!
THE GREAT GAUL CHIEF VERCINGETORIX SURRENDERED IT TO JULIUS CAESAR AT THE BATTLE OF ALESIA, WHEN GAUL* FELL TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE.
IT'S WORTH MILLIONS!
*NOW KNOWN AS FRANCE.
MILLIONS, EH? WELL, MAYBE THERE IS A STORY IN THIS!
HANDS UP, YOU TWO! WE'LL TAKE THAT SHIELD!
2

CAREFUL WITH THE SHIELD, MIKE! THE DEALER WON'T PAY A CENT IF IT'S DAMAGED!
HOPE THEY DON'T SPOT ME PRESSING MY SIGNAL-WATCH!
GOT TO DELAY THEM TILL SUPERMAN SHOWS UP!
STOP! OR I'LL SHOOT!
TOMMY, DO SOME-THIN'! THE LOON'S TRYIN' TO SKEWER ME!
BLAST! I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM!
STOP, SUCKER--OR I'LL DRILL A HOLE IN YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
LOOKS LIKE I BLEW IT!
SUPERMAN!
PERFECT TIMING, PAL!


NOT EVEN YOU CAN STOP MORE THAN ONE BULLET AT A TIME!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY--
EASIER FOR ME TO DO!
NOW, SURRENDER OR--
OKAY! I GIVE UP!
IT'S THAT BOZO'S FAULT!
JIMMY! BEHIND YOU!
WHAT?!
KRASH!
OH, NO! THE ARVERNE SHIELD! IT'S DESTROYED!
I'M SORRY, KAREN! IT WAS JUST A REFLEX! I COULDN'T HELP...
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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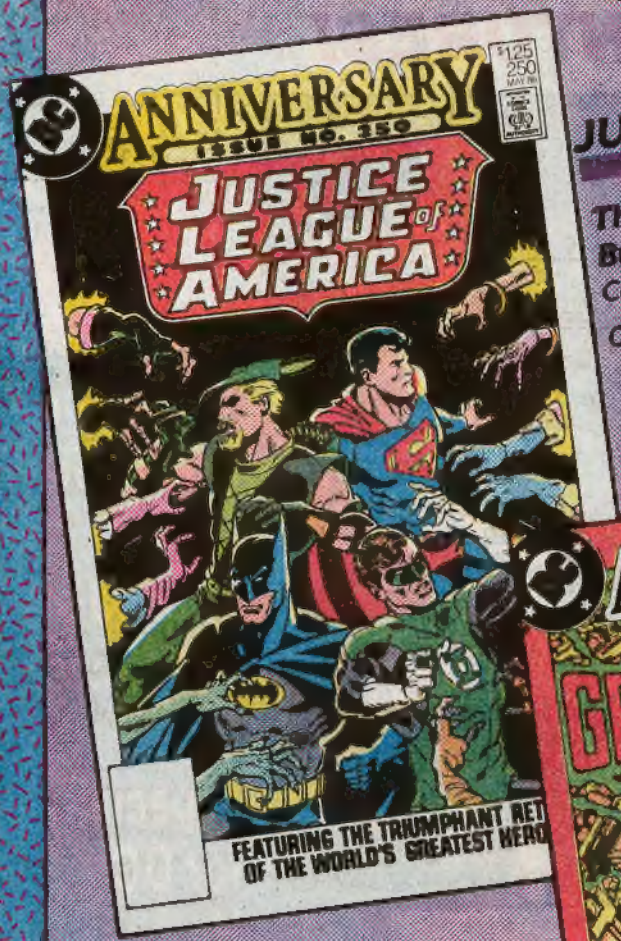

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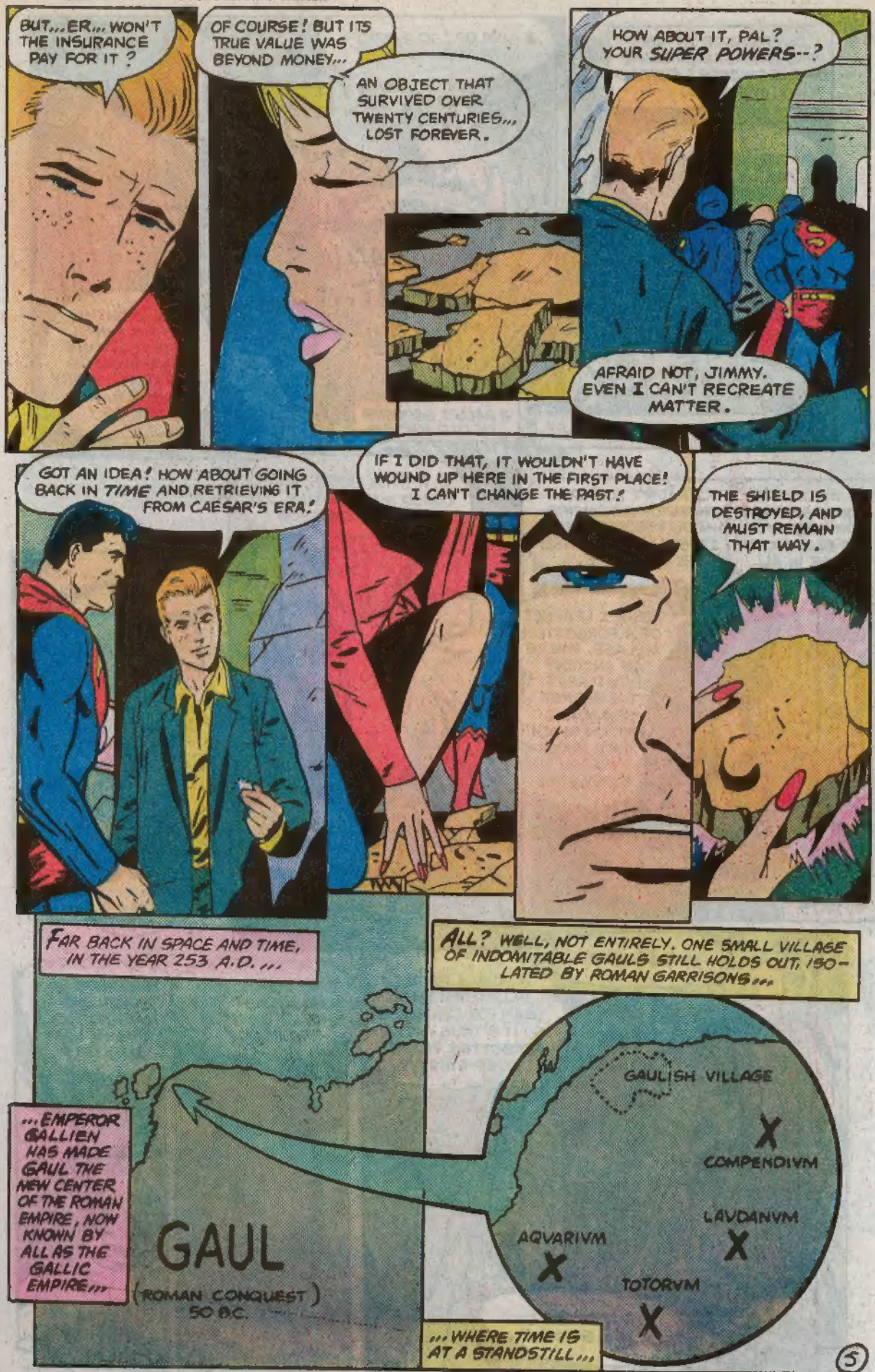
BUT...ER... WON'T THE INSURANCE PAY FOR IT ?
OF COURSE! BUT ITS TRUE VALUE WAS BEYOND MONEY...
AN OBJECT THAT SURVIVED OVER TWENTY CENTURIES... LOST FOREVER.
HOW ABOUT IT, PAL? YOUR SUPER POWERS--?
AFRAID NOT, JIMMY. EVEN I CAN'T RECREATE MATTER.
GOT AN IDEA! HOW ABOUT GOING BACK IN TIME AND RETRIEVING IT FROM CAESAR'S ERA!
IF I DID THAT, IT WOULDN'T HAVE WOUND UP HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE! I CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST!
THE SHIELD IS DESTROYED, AND MUST REMAIN THAT WAY.
FAR BACK IN SPACE AND TIME, IN THE YEAR 253 A.D. ...
ALL? WELL, NOT ENTIRELY. ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT, ISOLATED BY ROMAN GARRISONS...
...EMPEROR GALLIEN HAS MADE GAUL THE NEW CENTER OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, NOW KNOWN BY ALL AS THE GALLIC EMPIRE...
GAUL
(ROMAN CONQUEST) 50 B.C.
GAULISH VILLAGE
COMPENDIVM
LAVDANVM
AQVARIVM
TOTORVM
...WHERE TIME IS AT A STANDSTILL...
5

...SURROUNDED BY THE IMPENETRABLE BARRIER OF THE THICKEST FOREST IN GAUL...
BY TARANIS! MOVE! A POX UPON THIS CURSED CREATURE!
WELL, ALMOST IMPENETRABLE!
I GIVE UP! TO EPOXY* WITH THIS ANIMAL!
*GALLIC GOODESS OF OLD HORSES.
FIVE MONTHS IN THIS AWFUL FOREST EATING WILD BERRIES AND LITTLE FURRY ANIMALS, AND NOTHING!
IF MY CLIENTS COULD SEE ME NOW--PROLIFIX, THE BEST SOOTHSAYER IN ALL LUTETIA*!
IF I HADN'T FOUND MY ANCESTOR'S MEMOIRS IN THAT SECRET CABINET, I'D STILL BE ENJOYING THE GOOD LIFE.
THERE I LEARNED OF A FORGOTTEN VILLAGE, WHERE AN ANCIENT DRUID KEPT THE SECRET OF A MAGIC POTION WHICH GAVE SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH.
*PARIS.
IF IT STILL EXISTS, AND I COULD MAKE IT MINE, I'D BECOME... EMPEROR!
PATROL, HALT!
EH--?
TAKE V, MEN...
A ROMAN PATROL! IN UNIFORMS NOT SEEN FOR CENTURIES! SO IT'S TRUE-- THE FORGOTTEN VILLAGE DOES EXIST!
...BUT WATCH OUT FOR GAULS!
THEY LOOK LIKE SIMPLETONS! THEY SHOULD BE EASY TO FOOL!
FORTUNATELY, I TOOK ALONG MY MAGICAL TOOLS WHEN I LEFT LUTETIA!

GREETINGS, MEN OF ROME! I AM PROLIFIX THE WARLOCK!
QU-QUOMODO VA-VALES?
TAKE ME TO YOUR CENTURION! I BEAR A MESSAGE FROM THE GODS!
HAVING EASILY CONVINCED THE CREDULOUS LEGIONARIES, THE CRAFTY PROLIFIX IS TAKEN TO THE ROMAN GARRISON OF COM-PENDIUM...
CENTURION. THIS GALLIC WARLOCK CLAIMS TO CARRY A MESSAGE FROM THE GODS!
DON'T BE SO ANIMATED, MIKIMUS! JUST GIVE ME YOUR REPORT!
FANTASTIC! EVERYTHING IS AS IT WAS TWO CEN-TURIES AGO!
AFTER A HASTY REPORT, PRO-LIFIX IS TAKEN TO THE CENTURION'S PRIVATE QUARTERS...
WE HAVE KEPT THESE GAULS ISOLATED FOR FIVE GENERATIONS!
TELL ME, WARLOCK, HOW IS ROME FARING?
LATER, CENTURION. FIRST, TELL ME...
IS THE GALLIC DRUID STILL ALIVE? THE ONE WHO KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION THAT GIVES SUPER-STRENGTH...
ALIVE? WITHOUT HIS MAGIC, THESE GAULS WOULD NOW BE HISTORY!
BUT WITH THAT MAGIC POTION, THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL FOR US TO OVERCOME!
IF YOU HELP ME, WE CAN CAPTURE THE DRUID, LEARN HIS SECRETS, AND GET RID OF THOSE GAULS.
AND THEN, I'LL GET RID OF YOU AS WELL!
CAPTURE THE DRUID? IMPOSSIBLE!
I HAVE A PLAN. LISTEN...
7

AFTER MINUTES OF FEVERISH PLOTTING, THE MIGHTY LEGIONS OF COMPENDIUM ARE ASSEMBLED...
SOLDIERS, I NEED FOUR BRAVE VOLUNTEERS TO GO AND CAPTURE THE GALLIC DRUIDS!
THERE WILL BE HONOR, DOUBLE PAY, MEDALS...
AFTER A FULL MINUTE OF DEAD SILENCE...
YOU FOUR ARE VOLUNTEERS!
SHORTLY, AS THE LEGIONARIES STALK THEIR PREY...
EVERYTHING WAS PEACEFUL TILL THAT WARLOCK SHOWED UP!
MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY ENOUGH NOT TO FIND THE DRUID!
SHH! I HEARD A NOISE! IT MUST BE THE GAULS!
WE BETTER HIDE!
THERE SHOULD BE SOME FOUR-LEAF CLOVERS AROUND HERE...
BAD LUCK! IT'S THE DRUID...
...AND WHAT'S WORSE -- COLUMNIX IS WITH HIM!
WE'RE DOOMED!
8
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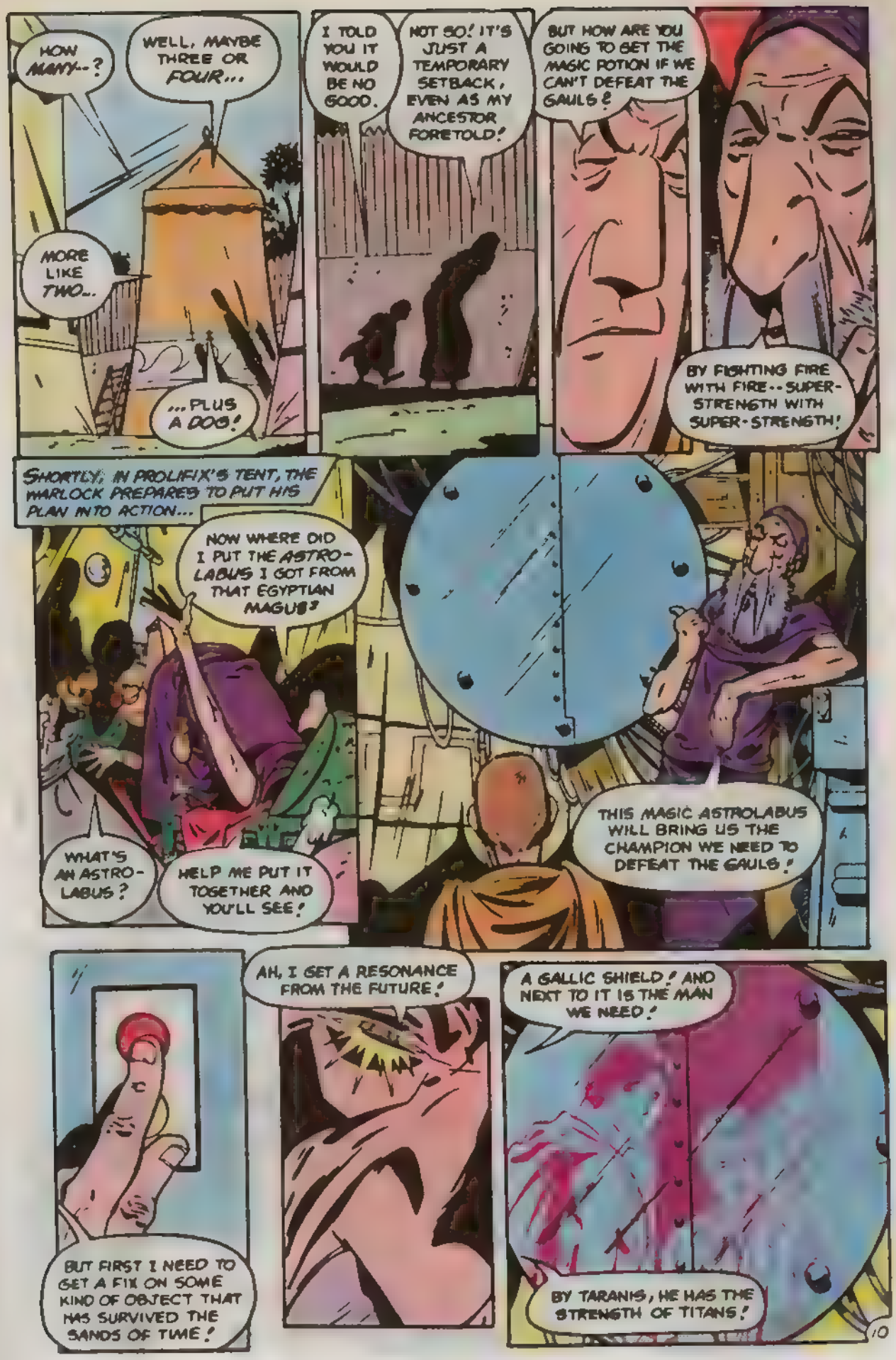
LET ME GO!
NO! WE HAVE OUR DUTY TO DO!
O DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI!
MIND YOUR LATIN!
D-DRUID... WOULD YOU M-MIND VERY MUCH C-COMING WITH US--AS OUR P-PRISONER?
MAY I ANSWER, O PICTURIX, MY DRUID?
YOU CERTAINLY MAY, COLUMNIX!
THESE ROMANS ARE MAD!
STRANGE! WE HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS AT PEACE FOR YEARS!
I WONDER WHAT PROVOKED THEM TO ACT UP AGAIN?
AND WHEN THE INTREPID LEGIONARIES REPORT ON THEIR MISSION...
AYE! WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY!
HOW MANY WERE THERE?
A WHOLE SLEW OF THEM!

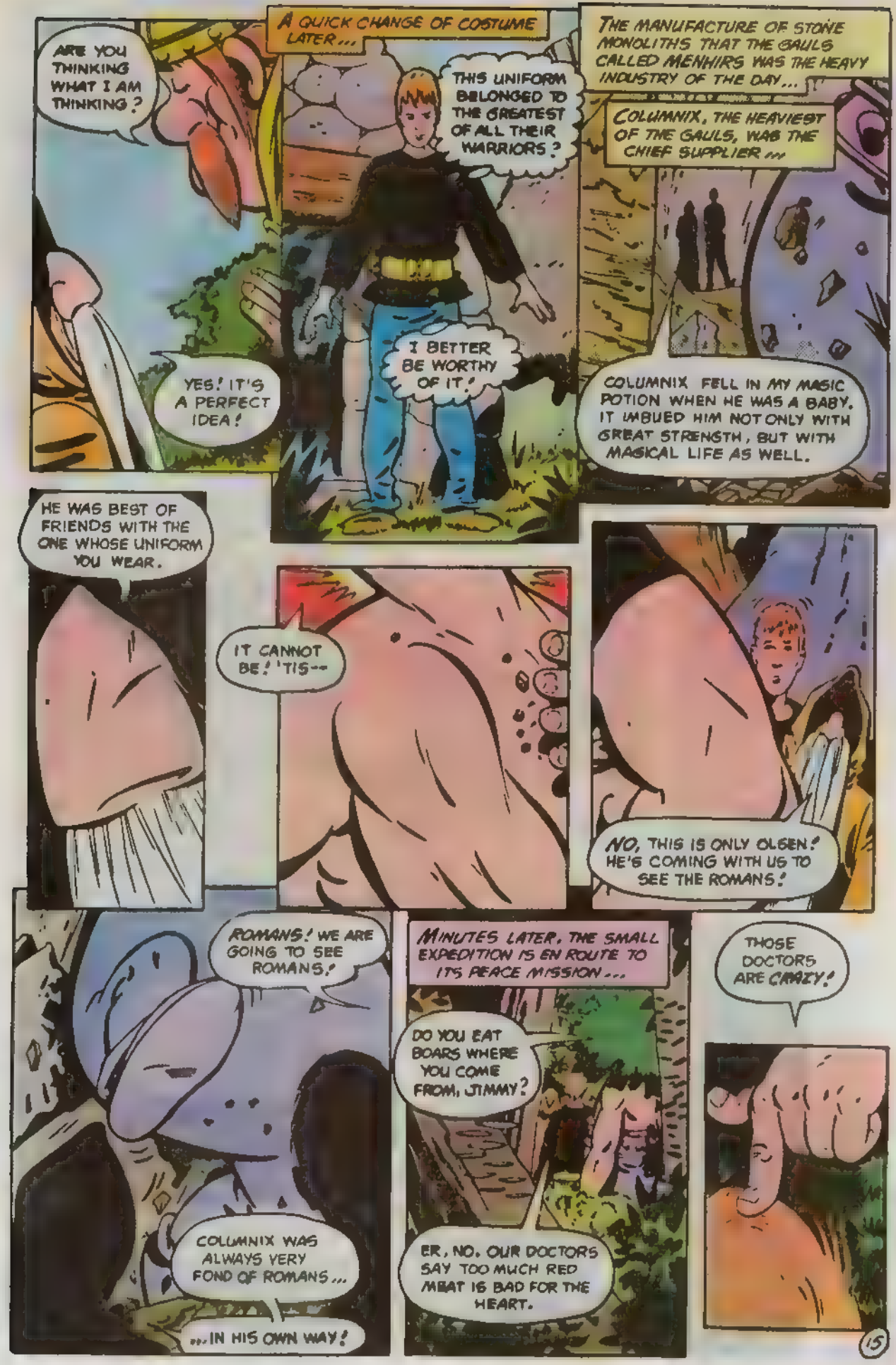

HOW MANY--?
WELL, MAYBE THREE OR FOUR...
MORE LIKE TWO..
...PLUS A DOG!
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD BE NO GOOD.
NOT SO! IT'S JUST A TEMPORARY SETBACK, EVEN AS MY ANCESTOR FORETOLD!
BUT HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE MAGIC POTION IF WE CAN'T DEFEAT THE GAULS?
BY FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE--SUPER-STRENGTH WITH SUPER-STRENGTH!
SHORTLY, IN PROLIFIX'S TENT, THE WARLOCK PREPARES TO PUT HIS PLAN INTO ACTION...
NOW WHERE DID I PUT THE ASTRO-LABUS I GOT FROM THAT EGYPTIAN MAGUS?
THIS MAGIC ASTROLABUS WILL BRING US THE CHAMPION WE NEED TO DEFEAT THE GAULS!
WHAT'S AN ASTRO-LABUS?
HELP ME PUT IT TOGETHER AND YOU'LL SEE!
BUT FIRST I NEED TO GET A FIX ON SOME KIND OF OBJECT THAT HAS SURVIVED THE SANDS OF TIME!
AH, I GET A RESONANCE FROM THE FUTURE!
A GALLIC SHIELD! AND NEXT TO IT IS THE MAN WE NEED!
BY TARANIS, HE HAS THE STRENGTH OF TITANS!

AND IN OUR DAY, THE MAGIC FROM YESTERYEAR BEGINS TO WORK...
J-JIMMY, YOU'RE FADING AWAY--!
SUPERMAN! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US?
I DON'T KNOW! IT'S AS IF A FORCE WERE PULLING US THROUGH THE TIME STREAM!
TAKE MY CAPE! IT WILL PROTECT YOU!
FROM WHAT?
IT WORKED! I WISH I HAD PAID THAT OLD EGYPTIAN!
KKRASH!
SOON AFTERWARDS, FOLLOWING A CLEARLY VISIBLE TRAIL...
THE SHOCK HAS KNOCKED OUR CHAMPION UNCONSCIOUS!
GOOD! IT WILL MAKE IT EASY FOR THE VAPORS OF EPONA TO RENDER HIM MY OBEDIENT SLAVE!
11

ARE YOU SURE THIS MAN IS WORTH ALL THAT TROUBLE, PROLIFIX?
YOU WANT PROOF?
SLAVE, PICK UP THAT DEAD TREE AND THROW IT FAR AWAY!
BY JUPITER! THE MAN FROM THE SKY HAS THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES!
BUT HE IS NOT HERCULES...
THE "S" ON HIS CHEST, HIS SUPER-STRENGTH...
...I'LL CALL OUR CHAMPION--SUPERIX!
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR AWAY, ANOTHER VISITOR OUT OF TIME MAKES HIS RE-ENTRY...
EEE-Y!! THE SKY IS FALLING!
SPLASH!
DON'T BE SILLY, BULWINKELMUS! 'TIS ONLY A MAN, IN A FUNNY CAPE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, ROCKIX. LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE VILLAGE.
WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
WHAT IS HE SAYING?
SQUISH!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THIS WILL KEEP HIM QUIET UNTIL THE DRUID SEES HIM!

AS USUAL, PICTURIX'S MAGIC LIVES UP TO ITS REPUTATION. SOON, IT IS A GAUL-FLUENT JIMMY OLSEN WHO CONVERSES WITH THE DRUID...
SO YOU COME FROM OUR FUTURE. DON'T TELL ANY OF THIS TO THE OTHERS. THEY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
GOTCHA! I DON'T WANT TO END UP IN YOUR GALLIC BELLEVUE!
I MUST FIND SUPERMAN! ONLY HE CAN GET US BACK TO OUR OWN TIME!
LET'S GO AND TALK TO THE CHIEF. PERHAPS WE CAN DEVISE SOME PLAN.
WHERE DID THEY CATCH THAT?
IT'S ALL THAT STUFF THEY THROW IN THE SEA NOWADAYS!
HE'S NOT A FISH, MYOPIX!
CLEAR THE SQUARE! HERE COMES THE CHIEF!
WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE, STRANGER! I AM CHIEF FLIPMYBIX!
BERLIX TOLD ME YOU NOW SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE! I'D LIKE YOU TO ATTEND OUR COUNCIL MEETING!
FAN-TASTIC! THAT GUY'S STANDING ON A SHIELD THAT'S A RINGER FOR THE ONE I SMASHED!
SOON, JIMMY PARTAKES IN THE VILLAGE COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS...
NO, WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FRIEND, OLSEN. BUT I'LL SEND WARRIORS TO SEARCH THE FOREST.
THEY CAN'T MISS HIM. HE IS, ER, KIND OF DIFFERENT...

COME, OLSEN. WE MUST SPEAK!
AS YOU MUST HAVE GUESSED, THIS VILLAGE IS AN ANOMALY. THE AGE OF THE DRUIDS IS LONG GONE. OUR MAGIC HAS FLED TO OTHER REALMS.
BECAUSE I LOVE THESE PEOPLE, I HAVE KEPT THIS PART OF THE WORLD SAFE FROM THE RAVAGES OF TIME AND PROGRESS.
TELL ME, HOW IS THE WORLD OUTSIDE?
I HAVE USED MY MAGIC TO KEEP INVADERS AWAY, AND A POTION WHICH CONFERS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH TO KEEP THE ROMANS AT BAY.
IF I REMEMBER MY HISTORY CORRECTLY, ROME HAS FALLEN AND THIS IS NOW THE TIME OF THE GALLIC EMPIRE!
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH. MY TIME HAS COME, THEN. BUT I CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL I SET THIS PLACE IN MOTION AGAIN!
TOMORROW, I SHALL GO AND SPEAK TO THE ROMANS. THEY MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR TIME HAS COME TOO.
WITHOUT MY MAGIC POTION, THIS VILLAGE WOULD QUICKLY FALL TO THE SURROUNDING ROMANS, WHO ARE ALSO TRAPPED IN MY SPELLS.
I'D BE HAPPY TO COME WITH YOU AND HELP EXPLAIN THE SITUATION...
BESIDES, THEY MIGHT KNOW WHERE SUPERMAN IS!
NEXT MORNING...
DON'T GO, DRUID! IT COULD BE DANGEROUS!
IT PROBABLY IS, BUT I MUST GO!
I'LL TAKE COLUMNIX BECAUSE HE'S THE STRONGEST ONE IN THE VILLAGE. OLSEN WILL COME WITH ME, TOO.
OKAY--BUT I CAN'T GO DRESSED LIKE THIS!


ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I AM THINKING?
A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME LATER...
THIS UNIFORM BELONGED TO THE GREATEST OF ALL THEIR WARRIORS?
I BETTER BE WORTHY OF IT!
YES! IT'S A PERFECT IDEA!
THE MANUFACTURE OF STONE MONOLITHS THAT THE GAULS CALLED MENHIRS WAS THE HEAVY INDUSTRY OF THE DAY...
COLUMNIX, THE HEAVIEST OF THE GAULS, WAS THE CHIEF SUPPLIER...
COLUMNIX FELL IN MY MAGIC POTION WHEN HE WAS A BABY. IT IMBUED HIM NOT ONLY WITH GREAT STRENGTH, BUT WITH MAGICAL LIFE AS WELL.
HE WAS BEST OF FRIENDS WITH THE ONE WHOSE UNIFORM YOU WEAR.
IT CANNOT BE! 'TIS--
NO, THIS IS ONLY OLGEN! HE'S COMING WITH US TO SEE THE ROMANS!
ROMANS! WE ARE GOING TO SEE ROMANS!
COLUMNIX WAS ALWAYS VERY FOND OF ROMANS...
...IN HIS OWN WAY!
MINUTES LATER, THE SMALL EXPEDITION IS EN ROUTE TO ITS PEACE MISSION...
DO YOU EAT BOARS WHERE YOU COME FROM, JIMMY?
ER, NO. OUR DOCTORS SAY TOO MUCH RED MEAT IS BAD FOR THE HEART.
THOSE DOCTORS ARE CRAZY!

LITTLE DO THEY DREAM THAT THE OBJECT OF THEIR INTEREST IS AT THE VERY SAME MOMENT ENTERTAINING FAR MORE BELLICOSE THOUGHTS...
LEGIONARIES! HOLD YOUR POSITION! ONWARD!
ONCE AGAIN, WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THE ROMAN ARMIES...
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, CENTURION, WE'D RATHER STAY HERE!
NO, NO! WITH SUPERIX ON OUR SIDE, THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR!
ATTACK! DEATH TO THE GAULS!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ATTACKING!
HERE, OLSEN. THIS GOURD OF MAGIC POTION IS GOING TO COME IN HANDY.
LET'S SHOW THEM WHAT WE GAULS ARE MADE OF!
HA HA!
COLUMNIX!
TH-THEY WANT YOU O-OVER TH-THERE!
COME ON, PREFIX!
YAP!
COLUMNIX! WAIT! IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS!
SUDDENLY--!
WHOOSH!
WHAM!
16

YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG FOR A ROMAN!
I HAVEN'T HAD THIS MUCH FUN IN YEARS!
K-A-R-A-K!!
WOW! THIS SURE IS FUN!
TAKE THIS, ROMAN!
EH! WHERE DID HE GO?
BOOM!

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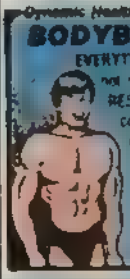

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I WONDER WHY SUPERMAN IS ACTING SO STRANGELY?
GUESS IT'S TIME I TRIED THIS POTION OF YOURS, PICTURIX!
WHOA!
THAT POTION IS TERRIFIC STUFF, PICTURIX! YOU COULD MAKE A FORTUNE SELLING IT AT HEALTH CLUBS IN METROPOLIS!
STOP, INTERLOPER!
SUPERMAN, SNAP OUT OF IT!
YOUR FRIEND IS UNDER MY SPELL! HE HEARS ONLY MY COMMANDS!
SURRENDER, OR I'LL ORDER HIM TO KILL THE CAPTIVE!
GAULS, YOU ARE OUR PRISONERS!
AND YOU, DRUID, WILL GIVE ME THE SECRET OF YOUR MAGIC POTION!
NEVER!

SOON, OUR HEROES ARE DRAGGED TO THE ROMAN CAMP IN IGNOMINIOUS DEFEAT...
WITHOUT THE DRUID AND THE FAT ONE TO DEFEND IT, THE VILLAGE WILL BE EASY PREY!
BUT FIRST, THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC POTION!
WELL, DRUID, DO YOU STILL DENY ME YOUR SECRET?
YOU WIN! YOU WILL HAVE MY POTION!
I AGREE TO GIVE YOU THE FORMULA, AND MAKE ONE POT OF POTION--BUT YOU MUST RELEASE OLSEN! I NEED HIS HELP!
GRANTED! BUT, REMEMBER, MY SLAVE SUPERIX IS STRONGER THAN YOUR POTION, SO--NO TRICKS!
AFTER SOME HURRIED GATHERING OF ARCANE INGREDIENTS, THE DRUID AND JIMMY ARE GIVEN THE PRIVACY OF THEIR OWN TENT...
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO GIVE YOUR SECRET TO THOSE CREEPS!
NOT TO WORRY, OLSEN. I HAVE A PLAN...
AFTER WE LEARN THE SECRET, I'LL HAVE THOSE THREE EXECUTED!
AND THEN, I CAN BECOME... CAESAR!
IMBECILE! YOUR CAESAR AND HIS EMPIRE DIED TWO CENTURIES AGO! I'LL BE EMPEROR OF GAUL!
THE POTION IS READY!
CAREFUL, IT'S HOT!
WHO WANTS TO BE THE FIRST TO TRY?

ME! ME!
NO, ME! IT WAS MY PLAN!
PROLIFIX IS RIGHT! THIS WHOLE FLAMIN' MESS WAS HIS IDEA!
IT'S ONLY RIGHT HE BE THE FIRST TO TRY!
YES! YES!
NO!
WHAT IF IT IS A TRAP--?
WHAT IF THIS IS NOT THE MAGIC POTION? AND YOU'RE TRYING TO POISON ME?
I'LL TRY IT MYSELF, IF YOU LIKE!
NO! IF THIS IS THE MAGIC POTION, YOU'LL BECOME STRONG AGAIN!
WE NEED A HARMLESS VOLUNTEER-- BUT WHO?
SUPERIX! OF COURSE!
HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL US IF IT'S POISON, AND AS LONG AS HE IS MY SLAVE, HE CAN'T REBEL!
DRINK, SUPERIX!

J-JIMMY! WH-WHERE AM I?
THE DRUID'S POTION WORKED! SUPERMAN--YOU'RE FREE AGAIN!
WE GAMBLED THAT THE ONLY PERSON AROUND THEY'D WANT TO TRY THE MAGIC POTION WOULD BE YOU! SO THE DRUID WHIPPED UP A SPECIAL POTION TO FREE YOU FROM THE SPELL!
WHERE AM...
BY TEUTATES!
UNGH!
JOIN THE LEGION, THEY SAID! HA!
NO, COLUMNIX! HE IS A FRIEND!
THAT WAS COLUMNIX! HE HAS SUPER-STRENGTH, TOO! IT'S KIND OF COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN. HE FELL IN A BOWL OF MAGIC POTION AND...
COLUMNIX, NO HARD FEELINGS!
I'LL SHAKE TO THAT!

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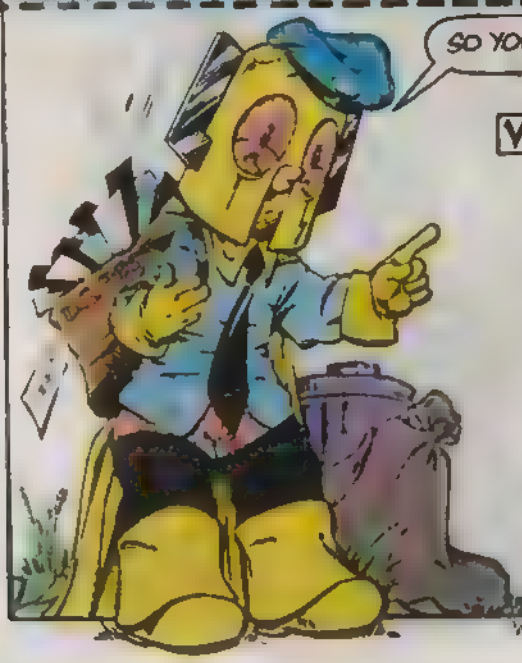

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I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU GAULS, YET!
YOU HAVEN'T FACED THE FULL FURY OF ROME AROUSED!
JUST THEN...
CHIEF FLIPMYBIX!
WHEN YOU DIDN'T COME BACK, WE FIGURED YOU MIGHT HAVE RUN INTO SOME KIND OF PROBLEM.
SO WE HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU A HAND!
FINE! I ALWAYS LIKE A LITTLE APPLAUSE!

IF I UNDERSTOOD JIMMY'S EXPLANATIONS CORRECTLY, THERE'S THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS!
I HOPE YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF LEAVING, FRIEND, FOR YOU HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
LET ME GO, YOU BARBARIAN!
AND ENLIGHTENING MINUTES LATER...
GO ON, PROLIFIX, TELL THEM--LOUDER!
SO YOU SEE--YOU HAVE NO REASON TO FIGHT! YOU'RE NO LONGER ENEMIES! NOW YOU'RE ONE AND THE SAME PEOPLE!
STOP, ALL OF YOU!
ROME FELL A CENTURY AGO. THE FORMER ROMAN EMPIRE IS NOW RUN BY THE GAULS, OUT OF LUTETIA...
WHAT--?!
HOORAY!

AS ALWAYS IN GAUL, ALL ENDS WITH A GREAT AND HAPPY BANQUET...
THIS SHIELD YOU ASKED FOR IS BUT A SMALL TOKEN, OLSEN!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT NOTHING ELSE?
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
THE TIME TO DEPART HAS COME, COLUMNIX, LIKE MYSELF, NOW BELONGS TO ANOTHER AGE.
NO, CHIEF. THIS MAY SEEM SMALL TO YOU, BUT I KNOW A LADY BACK HOME THAT WOULD HAVE HAD MY HEAD IF I DIDN'T GET HER A REPLACEMENT FOR THE ONE I BROKE!
SO WE'LL BE GOING TOGETHER. BUT WE WILL BE BACK, SOMEDAY...
KAREN WILL BE HAPPY. IT MAY NOT BE THE SAME SHIELD, BUT IT WAS MADE BY THE SAME PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME.
WHAT A GREAT BUNCH OF GUYS! I FEEL LIKE WRITING THEIR STORY!
IT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE!
COME ON, JIMMY! IT'S TIME TO GO HOME.
FIN!
NEXT ISSUE: 3 STORIES!
"THE DAY SUPERMAN COULDN'T SAVE!"
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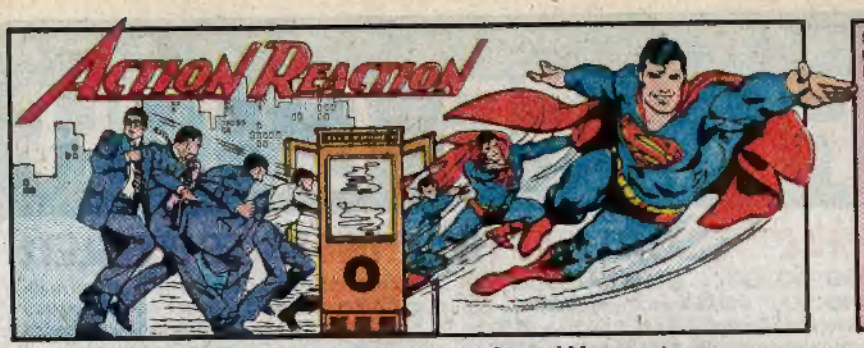

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Dear Editor,

ACTION COMICS #575 was quite an issue, as are most comics that the Man of Steel appears in. I must compliment Joey Cavalieri on creating a story that was able to walk the fine line between seriousness and lightheartedness. "The Great Brain Robbery" was a refreshing break from the Earth-shattering stories in *CRISIS*. I like the idea that the action in *ACTION* (did I really say that?) takes place before the events in *CRISIS*. It allows us readers to read and not have to worry about how it all fits into the continuity. Let poor *Supes* worry about the death of *Supergirl* in *SUPERMAN*; let's have fun here.

Intellex is a great villain. His motivation of craving knowledge as a prize rather than as a useful tool is an interesting break from all the power-mad villains. The story flowed logically and smoothly, though the climax left me slightly disappointed. Assuming that Intellex had, at the least, average intelligence, it's hard to believe he wouldn't realize that if he released Einbrain, the first thing Einbrain would do is release *Superman*. The story was also confusing in that it was never really explained if Einbrain was actually Albert Einstein's consciousness. In other words, was Intellex actually talking to Albert Einstein?

In the first story, the villain learns a lesson, but in "Rodent on a Rampage," it is *Superman* who learns one. Thank you, Craig Boldman, for showing us that the Man of Steel is still just a man, capable of making mistakes. The image of *Supes* crashing through his robots on page three gave a good chuckle, but it also made me think of how little we see of the Action Ace fouling up like this. It's good to see that a story can be written without a big fight between *Superman* and a super-villain. The trend towards this kind of writing in *ACTION* pleases me no end.

All in all, it was a great issue. I look forward to #576 and until then, I know where to look.

KEVIN FLETCHER
328 Johnston Dr.
Burlington, Ont. L7N 1V6

Well, Kevin, if you're going to spend an entire month looking up in the sky, you'll probably get a stiff neck! But let us know if you spot Halley's Comet! And regarding your question about Intellex and the Einbrain, since Einstein himself is dead, there is no way he could be carrying on a conversation with the villain. (Then again, this is a comic book...)—BR

*****

Dear Julie, Bob, and maybe Laurie,

My friends, I am grievously saddened that you neglected me in *ACTION* #575. Intellex in his quest for knowledge decided to collect Earth's greatest minds—Einstein, *Superman* ... but what about *me?!* I am the most intelligent thing in and out of existence. How stupid can Intellex be? I cannot understand how such mediocre mentalities could have been selected before the superior intellect!

AMBUSH BUG
(via KEITH DRAWBAUGH, York, PA)

Gee, Bug, maybe Intellex didn't want you to miss the premiere issue of your next mini-series (a six-issue stint this time) coming in April and perpetrated once again by the wacky team of Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming!—BR

*****

Dear Editor (and the Rozakis-of-the-Month),

Somehow I doubt that Albert Einstein's dead brain would retain all of his personality and knowledge, and Intellex is one of *Superman*'s goofier foes, but nevertheless "The Great Brain Robbery" was a nice little lark of a story. The sight of the Einbrain flitting about in that little flying box was peculiar to behold. While I don't know if Einstein was so much clever as he was a profound and subtle thinker, I liked the way the Einbrain outwitted Intellex despite being under a "spell."

Quite apart from the unwitting attempt to hold an intelligent creature "prisoner," "Rodent on a Rampage" made me think about *Superman*'s Fortress of Solitude zoo. At one time, the fact that *Superman* keeps such a zoo seemed only natural—sort of as an extension of his trophy collection. But these days one has to wonder about the advisability and humanity of such a collection. For one thing, those cages look awfully confining and bare. And what's more, the fact that these creatures are taken from their native environments (not to mention their native planets!) and set down amidst totally alien creatures means that their surroundings in captivity must be a long way from being natural to them. With earthly zoos, one can argue they perform a function—educating the public. However, being a secret collection, *Superman*'s zoo provides no such benefits. Does *Superman* still look upon the members of his zoo as living trophies or does he now stock it only with animals that need help, either individually or as a species, the way our own zoos work to prevent the extinction of species? If such is the case, perhaps the cages ought to be adapted to local environments.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, Ont. M9L 2R9

Let's assume that the creatures in Superman's zoo are there because they have no home worlds to return to, T.M. And that the Man of Steel will take your advice on revamping the physical surroundings they're in. But the odds are you won't be seeing the zoo again in the near future. As you read this, we will be preparing the first issue of the new Superman series, written and penciled by John Byrne. In anticipation of the Man of Steel's 50th anniversary in 1988, we are making every attempt to return him to the stature he once held—as the greatest hero in comics! There will be some changes in the legend and they will be carried over into these pages as well. (More on that in the next few issues!) And Julie Schwartz will be passing the editorial reins over to Andy Helfer. Julie will be working on our science-fiction graphic novel series, the AMBUSH BUG mini-series, the new BLUE BEETLE (by Len Wein and Paris Cullins and coming in March), and other things he won't even tell me about.

And before I close, let me point out a four-issue Batman mini-series titled THE DARK KNIGHT, by Frank Miller, Klaus Janson, and Lynn Varley. This series takes place ten years after Batman's retirement and will be published in our deluxe format with full-color art and high-quality printing. As DC's Production Manager, I can tell you that this one will be a beauty to see—I've worked with the creative team before (Frank and Lynn on RONIN, Klaus on the FROST AND FIRE Graphic Novel) and know they do everything they can to take advantage of the superior production involved in these books.

And on that note, I remind you to "Look, up in the sky..." and you'll probably spot a plane carrying me to Montreal to do a press okay on an issue of THE DARK KNIGHT! See you next issue.—Bob Rozakis

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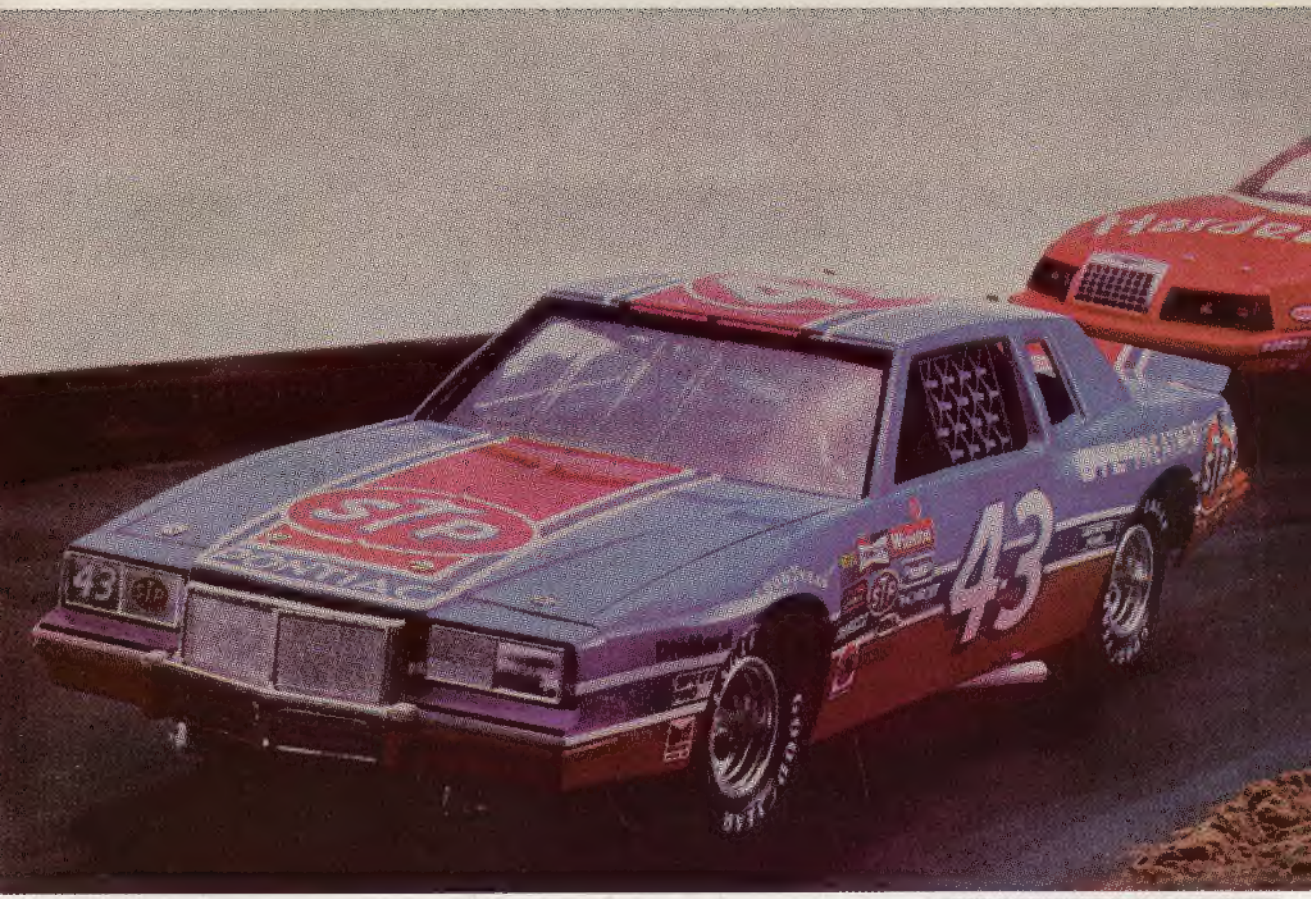

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